

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1177

By Carr

A RESOLUTION to commend Joe Jack and Geraldine Dement for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Joe Jack and Geraldine “Jerry” Dement are two such estimable people, who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in honor of their many years of exceptional service, the family and friends of Joe Jack and Jerry Dement have recently united to establish the Joe Jack and Jerry Dement Endowed Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, earnings from this endowment will be used to fund scholarships for students in the Agribusiness and Agriscience program at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU); and

WHEREAS, born on August 9, 1926, Joe Jack Dement attended Wartrace and Shelbyville schools, where he served his fellow students as the President of the 4-H Club; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Mr. Dement answered duty’s call in 1945 and bravely served his country with honor as a Military Governor in the United States Army’s Nara Military Government Company in Nara, Japan; and

WHEREAS, upon returning home from World War II, Joe Jack Dement enrolled at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, where he met the Bradley County High FFA Queen and love of his life, Jerry Bennett; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dement earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Production in 1950 and his Master of Science degree in Animal Science in 1969; and

WHEREAS, an adept and experienced farmer, Joe Jack Dement toiled assiduously on several poultry farms and a swine farm until the Dement family purchased their own farm at Lascassas in 1970; and

WHEREAS, joining the Middle Tennessee State College family in 1964, Mr. Dement served with acumen and alacrity as a farm manager and faculty member, and, as an extremely talented and considerate educator, Joe Jack Dement has masterfully taught livestock production and management for twenty-one years; and

WHEREAS, in addition to cultivating the intellects of his students, Mr. Dement was a founding father of the Alpha Kappa Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at the University of Tennessee and the Beta Theta Chapter of Alpha Gamma Rho at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Joe Jack Dement has distinguished himself as a leader in the farming industry through his work in numerous organizations, including serving as the President of the Rutherford Farm Bureau's Board of Directors and the Farm Service Administration's Advisory Board and as a member of the Rutherford County Land Use Committee, the Urban Growth Boundary Committee, and the MTSU Farm Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Dement earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Middle Tennessee State College in 1966 and her master's degree in Education in 1974; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dement offered her boundless enthusiasm, tireless work ethic, and compassionate spirit as a second grade teacher from 1966 until 1993; and

WHEREAS, an active and important member of her profession and the community, Jerry Dement has been a member of the NEA, TEA, MCEA, the Reading Council, American Association of University Women, Beta Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, and MTSU Dames Club and a supporter of Alpha Gamma Rho; she rendered sterling service as the County Chairman of the Rutherford Farm Bureau Women for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Dements are most grateful for the love and companionship they share with their family, including four children, eleven grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, sharing a deep and abiding faith, both Joe Jack and Jerry Dement are devout members of the Northminster Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, the Dements' remarkable success as public servants and civic leaders is directly attributable to their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and their uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Joe Jack and Jerry Dement are extremely giving people who often reach out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and they epitomize the ideal of consummate professionals, dedicated public servants, and reliable friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the Dements have been a part of the University family for nearly half a century, and this endowment is a tribute to their love for MTSU and its School of Agribusiness and Agriscience; and

WHEREAS, Joe Jack and Jerry Dement are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the family and friends of Joe Jack and Jerry Dement in commending them for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, salute them for their unswerving commitment Middle Tennessee State University, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.